

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Ohio

FILED
RICHARD W. NAGEL
CLERK OF COURT

11/12/21

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DIST. OHIO
WEST. DIV. DAYTONIn the Matter of the Search of
(Briefly describe the property to be searched
or identify the person by name and address)Priority Mail Tracking Number
9405536895232560443890
postmarked November 9, 2021

Case No. 3:21MJ409

APPLICATION FOR A WARRANT BY TELEPHONE OR OTHER RELIABLE ELECTRONIC MEANS

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):

Priority Mail Package 9405536895232560443890, addressed to STORM RATLIFF, 1549 IRONWOOD DR, FAIRBORN, OH 45324-3548, with a return address of ASHLEY WILLIAMS, 18424 DOMINO ST, RESEDA, CA 91335. located in the Southern District of Ohio, there is now concealed (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):

Controlled Substances, materials and documents reflecting the distribution of controlled substances through the U.S. Mails, including money and/or monetary instruments paid for controlled substances

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;
- ☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
- ☐ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
- ☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of:

Code Section
21 USC 841(a)(1)
21 USC 846
21 USC 843(b)

Offense Description
Distribution and possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.
Conspiracy to distribute/possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance
Use of a communication facility to commit a felony

The application is based on these facts:
SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.
- ☐ Delayed notice of _____ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: _____) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Applicant's signature

Brad M. Dorman, U.S. Postal Inspector

Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirements of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by
FaceTime (specify reliable electronic means).

Date: 11/12/21

City and state: Dayton, OH



Judge's signature

United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF:
PRIORITY MAIL PACKAGE
TRACKING NUMBER
9405536895232560443890

Case No. **3:21MJ409**

Filed Under Seal

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
AN APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT**

I, **Brad M Dorman**, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

1. I am a United States Postal Inspector and have been since August 2017. I am presently assigned to the Cincinnati Field Office of the United States Postal Inspection Service, Pittsburgh Division, with investigative responsibility for southeast Indiana and southern Ohio. Part of my responsibility involves investigating the use of the United States Mail in the transportation of narcotics, other dangerous controlled substances, and financial proceeds from, or instrumentalities used in, the sale of such narcotics and controlled substances (hereinafter, "Drugs and/or Criminal Proceeds").
2. Based on my training and experience as a United States Postal Inspector, I have become aware that drug traffickers frequently use United States Priority Mail Express (overnight) or Priority Mail (2-3-day) to transport Drugs and/or Criminal Proceeds. Additionally, as a result of prior investigations, law enforcement training, and successful controlled-substance prosecutions involving the use of the United States Mail, I have learned of certain common characteristics and/or circumstances that indicate that a package may contain Drugs and/or Proceeds. These circumstances and/or characteristics include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: the mailer uses different post offices on the same day to send packages, the return address is false or non-existent, the addressee is not known to receive mail at the listed delivery address, the

package is heavily taped, the package is mailed from a known drug source location, the labeling information contains misspellings, the label contains an illegible waiver signature, unusual odors emanate from the package, and the listed address is located in an area of known or suspected drug activity.

3. On November 12, 2021, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service intercepted a package (hereinafter “the Package”) addressed to 1549 Ironwood Dr, Fairborn, OH 45324-3548 at the Cincinnati Network Distribution Center (NDC) coming from the Southern California area. The Package is a USPS Priority Mail Medium Flat Rate Box, bearing tracking number 9405536895232560443890, mailed from Post Office 91335, postmarked November 9, 2021, with the following address information:

Sender: ASHLEY WILLIAMS
18424 DOMINO ST
RESEDA, CA 91335

Addressee: STORM RATLIFF
1549 IRONWOOD DR
FAIRBORN, OH 45324-3548

Through training and experience as a Postal Inspector, the Southern California Area has long been identified as a drug source for drugs shipped nation-wide.

4. A check of the addressee information was performed in CLEAR. CLEAR is a law enforcement database that is used as a tool for investigators to identify person/business and address information. According to CLEAR, there is a “Storm Ratliff” associated with 1549 Ironwood Dr, Fairborn, OH 45324-3548. CLEAR also shows that “Storm Ratliff” was convicted in 2017 of Manufacturing/Cultivation of Marijuana.

5. A check of the sender information was performed in CLEAR. According to CLEAR, there is no “Ashley Williams” associated with 18424 Domino St, Reseda, CA 91335.

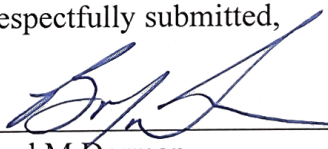
6. On November 12, 2021, at my request, Dayton Police Department Officer Jeremy Stewart conducted a narcotics-detection canine “free air” check of the outside of the Package. I was present during said check. Prior to conducting the “free air” check, the Package was placed in a room with multiple similar and like packages. As set forth in the attached affidavit of Officer Stewart, “Weston” alerted positively for the presence or odor of a narcotic or other controlled substance on the Package. “Weston” is a properly trained and certified narcotics-detection canine.

7. Based on my prior law enforcement training and experience as a United States Postal Inspector, the Package’s address information, including (i) no known association between the sender and return address, (ii) the prior conviction for narcotics of the recipient, and (iii) the positive alert of the narcotics-detection canine are all indicative of and consistent with Drugs and/or Proceeds in the Package.

Therefore, a search warrant to open the Package is requested.

Further, your affiant sayeth naught.

Respectfully submitted,



Brad M. Dorman
U.S. Postal Inspector
United States Postal Inspection Service

12th November

Subscribed and sworn to and before me this ____ day of _____, 2021.

HONORABLE SHARON L. OVINGTON
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE






UNITED STATES POSTAL INSPECTION SERVICE

PITTSBURGH DIVISION

OFFICER AFFIDAVIT

I, Officer **JEREMY STEWART**, am and have been employed by the **DAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT** since **2014**. Among other duties, I am currently the assigned handler of narcotics detection canine "**WESTON**" which is trained and certified in the detection of the presence or odor of narcotics described as follows:

Marijuana, Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and Heroin

On **11/12/2021**, at the request of Postal Inspector **DORMAN**, I responded to the **DAYTON P&DC**, where "**WESTON**" did alert to and indicate upon: [describe item]

USPS Priority Mail Tracking # 9405 5368 9523 2560 4438 90

TO: STORM RATLIFF

1549 IRONWOOD DR

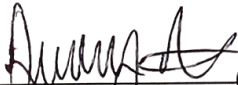
FAIRBORN, OH 45324-3548

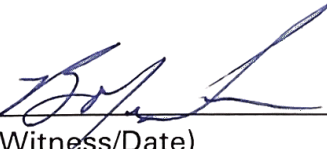
FROM: ASHLEY WILLIAMS

18424 DOMINO ST

RESEDA, CA 91335

Which, based upon my training and experience and that of "**WESTON**", indicates there is contained within or upon the above described item, the presence or odor of a narcotic or other controlled substance.

 **28948, 11-12-21**
(Signature, Badge #, and Date)

 **11/12/21**
(Witness/Date)